

Letter and enclosure from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 20, 1896, with transcript

Miss Bell.

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell request the pleasure of the company of Mr Graham Bell on Wednesday evening December ninth, at nine o'clock.

Dancing after eleven.

1331 Connecticut Avenue.

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Nov. 20th(1896.) My darling Alec:

We seem to be changing positions, you going to bed early and I staying up late. It seems to be utterly impossible for me to get to bed before twelve or one or two o'clock. It is nearly twelve now, and I must write Daisy beside you. I was so glad to get your letter although it told me nothing about yourself. I am so glad that your experiments are encouraging. I do hope that you will have some solid progress to report when you return. Mr. McCurdy tells me that you have covered several hundred pages in reports of your experiments. I think he said 2 hundred, but am too lazy to hunt up his letter to be sure. Papa has returned from Boston and Mr. Hudson remains President. It is a victory for him, I wish I had as much influence in my line. Elsie takes all my conceit out of me, it is so impossible to really influence her in the way I would like. She is interested in her parties and new dresses, but has so little idea how to wear the latter. Still I think she is improving.

Library of Congress

Papa's house was opened for the meeting of the Arbitration Committee today. Mamma had a large staff of people working in the house, and she has been in every day directing everything as Arthur is not here. This morning all the lower floor was in order, curtains up, ornaments all out and looking as if it had been lived in a month. Mamma expected the gentlemen at 3 but they came at 10 in the morning. It made no difference the house was ready even to the flowers all 2 around. The gentlemen wanted a quiet place for their meeting free from reporters, and Papa offered to open his house saying it would be no trouble, Mamma thought it might not to him. However the house would have had to be got ready very soon anyway. Dr. Simpson from St. Elizabeths spent the evening here. I rather like him, and think he talks well.

It is colder today and the first real autumn day, but I have been too busy to go out except this morning when I had to go shopping.

Goodnight. This is not brilliant but it bears my love.

Ever yours, Nov. 20th. (Wed. evening invitation enclosed)